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ID NO:4) (bovine β -casein, Schindler, C., Kashleva, H., Pernis, A., Pine, R. and Rothman, P (1994) EMBO J. 13, 1350-1356). --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 22, with the following written paragraph:

Q2
T03T0T "46E986Q
-- The particular endothelial cells are transfected with a reporter plasmid, pGL2-basic luciferase vector (Promega) containing an insert of an oligonucleotide corresponding to a four fold tandem repeat of the STAT response element, ATTTCCCGTAAAT (SEQ ID NO:2), upstream of the minimal promoter for herpes simplex thymidine kinase (-35 to +10) using standard methodology for example the calcium phosphate method (Graham and Van Der Eb, Virology, 1973, 52, 456). To correct for differences in transfection efficiency, the cells can be co-transfected with a reference plasmid expressing β -galactosidase activity. After a period of transfection (12-24 hours) the cells are treated with varying concentrations of compound or ob-protein alone as a positive control and then harvested and lysed. The lysates are assayed for luciferase, and if appropriate β -galactosidase, activity. Antagonist activity can be assayed by pre- or co-addition of an appropriate concentration of ob-protein to the compound under evaluation and measuring the reduction in luciferase response relative to that of ob-protein alone. Standard methods exist for assaying luciferase enzyme activity for example Ow et al., Science, 1986, 234, 856 and de Wet et al., Mol. Cell Biol., 1987, 7, 725. as well as several commercial kits. --

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 10 and 11 as follows:

Q3
10. (Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the response element is TTCCCGGAA (SEQ ID NO:5).

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the response element is selected from: ATTTCCCCGAAAT (SEQ ID NO:1), ATTTCCCGTAAAT (SEQ ID NO:2), ACTTCTTGGAATT (SEQ ID NO:3) and ACTTCTAGGAATT (SEQ ID NO:4).

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being made upon entry of International Application No. PCT/GB99/04326 into the U.S. national phase of prosecution in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821-1.825.